U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-076-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC69041

PROJECT NAME: Repeater site for pipeline

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 6th Principal Meridian
T. 1N., R. 97W.
sec. 29, SW

APPLICANT: Williams Northwest Pipeline (hereafter Northwest)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: None

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Dominion Rocky Mountain Pipeline (hereafter Dominion) built a pipeline connecting wells in the Yellow Creek area to Northwest's pipeline down Piceance Creek. In addition, Northwest has built a meter station located where the Dominion line connects to Northwest's main line. The meter station was permitted with the pipeline under COC 67992. The repeater station has not been permitted and will require separate authorization for Northwest. The reason for two environmental assessments is the project was deferred, at the request of the Northwest. Northwest has now asked to restart the approval process.

Proposed Action: Northwest proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a passive microwave repeater site approximately 2½ miles southwest of their new meter station. The microwave signal from the Yellow Creek meter site (located on Piceance Creek on the Yellow Creek Pipeline) needs to be received at the existing Cathedral Bluffs site. The repeater will provide the altitude and "line-of-sight" to complete the transmission. See Attachment A, which also includes the transmission equipment technical data.

Access will be directly from an existing dirt road and approximately 450 feet off of RBC Road 83 at the Square S Lookout. The repeater will be a 37 foot self-supporting metal tower. Northwest requests a 50-foot by 50-foot "permanent easement". The facility will be located within a 10-foot by 10-foot fenced area. The tower will be on a 5'9" square concrete pier foundation. The foundation will be a total of 3'6" deep with 3'3" below grade, the upper 12" will be framed, and the lower 2'6" cast against the soil base.

The receiver site will provide monitoring of the meter station for business and safety reasons. It will be in operation at all times. The right-of way grant will be for 30 years. Disturbed area will be .057 acres for the site itself and 0.258 acres for access.

No Action Alternative: The repeater tower would not be authorized or constructed.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: None

NEED FOR THE ACTION: Applicant has constructed the metering facility for a pipeline system to develop natural gas leases. In order for the facility to be operational, the site must be connected to the existing microwave communications system. Due to the topography of the area, a repeater site will be needed.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values".

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The proposed action is not located within a thirty mile radius of any special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No adverse impacts to air quality will occur as a result of the proposed repeater site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The area of the proposed tower location has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Selle 2005) and it has been determined that the area has been heavily impacted by previous construction activity.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed repeater tower and its foundation will not impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1.The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you

must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are no known noxious weeds at the site of the proposed action. The invasive alien cheatgrass occurs in unrevegetated areas of soil disturbance primarily associated with roads.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create a small area of soil disturbance which, if it is not promptly and effectively revegetated, will provide safe sites for the establishment of noxious weeds and cheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The operator will monitor the right of way for a minimum of five years post construction to detect the presence of noxious and invasive species. The operator will be responsible for eradication of noxious weeds and cheatgrass on the right of way using materials and methods authorized in advance by the Field Manager

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The proposed site lies within an open canopy (25%) pinyon-juniper woodland parcel that forms a small (600') extension into a large 1960's vintage woodland chaining. The facility would be sited in a small (0.3 acre) sagebrush park about 50' from the edge of an existing 2-track road that bisects the woodland parcel. A number of migratory birds fulfill nesting functions in the vicinity of this site from mid-May through mid-July. The proximity of the existing 2-track and maintained county road, and the fragmented and open-canopied nature of the woodlands reduces the capacity of this woodland and sagebrush parcel to support a strong complement of birds, but several of these species are recognized by the BLM and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory as having higher conservation interest, including black-throated gray warbler, juniper titmouse, and gray flycatcher in the woodland type and Brewer's sparrow and green-tailed towhee in the mixed shrub communities.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action involves a brief period of installation in the fall that would not coincide with any migratory bird breeding activity. The proposed tower, once installed, would have no further influence on subsequent nesting activities, since the project requires no additional access or power requirements and would involve no activity beyond periodic and infrequent maintenance

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to adversely influence migratory bird nesting activity.

Mitigation: None.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants which may contain hazardous constituents could be utilized in small quantities, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. A small amount of solid waste, such as wrappers, and assorted scrap, could be generated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located on the drainage divide between the Yellow Creek, and Piceance Creek catchment areas. Yellow Creek is a tributary to the White River and is situated in stream segment 13b of the White River Basin. Piceance Creek is also a tributary to the White River and at this location is positioned in stream segment 15 of the White River basin. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list, the White River ROD/RMP, and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. It should be noted that the White River from Piceance Creek to Douglas Creek has been listed on the states monitoring and evaluation list (M&E list) as being sediment impaired. In addition, the White River RMP has identified the main stem of Yellow Creek as a perennial stream NOT meeting water quality standards for suspended sediment and salinity.

The State has classified stream segment 13b "Use Protected". Stream segment 13b has been further designated by the state as being beneficial for the following uses: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For stream segments 13b, minimum standards for four parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 2000/100 ml, and 630/100 ml E. coli.

Stream segment 15 has not been label as "Use Protected" by the state therefore; the Antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are applicable to these waters. For stream segments 15, minimum standards for four parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 325/100 ml, and 205/100 ml E. coli.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Surfaces disturbed during construction will be vulnerable to erosional processes. Increased erosion from the site will increase sedimentation to downstream reaches of the impacted watersheds. This impact would be short term until successful reclamation is accomplished.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Revegetate disturbed areas as outlined in the vegetation section of this document.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Stream segment 15 of the White River Basin currently meet water quality standards set by the state. Following proper mitigation measures, water quality in this stream segment will be unaffected.

Yellow Creek has been identified as a perennial stream NOT meeting water quality standards set by the state. However, with proper mitigation water quality in Yellow Creek will not be deteriorated as a result of the proposed actions.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, floodplains, riparian or wetland communities, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or threatened, endangered or sensitive plants or animals exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species and riparian/wetland communities, the applicable Public Land Health Standards are not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on these plant associations or populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status species. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The following data is a product of an order III soil survey conducted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Rio Blanco County, CO.

The accompanying table highlights important soil characteristics. A complete summary of this information can be found at the White River Field Office.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex	5-30%	PJ woodlands/ PJ woodlands	<2	Very high	Moderate to high	10-20
73	Rentsac channery loam	5-50%	Pinyon-Juniper woodlands	<2	Rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20

70-Redcreek-Rentsac complex (5 to 30 percent slopes) is located on mountainsides and ridges. Areas are elongated and are 40 to 300 acres. The native vegetation is mainly pinyon and juniper trees with an understory of shrubs and grasses.

The Redcreek soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residual and eolian material derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the surface layer is brown sandy loam about 4 inches thick. The next layer is brown, calcareous sandy loam about 7 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown, calcareous channery loam 5 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to hard sandstone or hard shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Permeability of the Redcreek soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to high.

The Rentsac soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the upper part of the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is brown very channery loam about 4 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown extremely flaggy loam 7 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to hard sandstone or hard shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Permeability of the Rentsac soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to high.

73-Rentsac channery loam (5 to 50 percent slopes) is a shallow, well drained soil found on ridges, foothills, and side slopes. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from calcareous sandstone. The native vegetation is mainly pinyon, juniper, brush, and grasses. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is very channery loam about 4 inches thick. The underlying material is extremely flaggy light loam 7 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to sandstone ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Permeability of this Rentsac soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to very high.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Surfaces disturbed during construction will be vulnerable to erosional processes. Increased erosion from the site will increase sedimentation to downstream reaches of the impacted watersheds. This impact would be short term until successful reclamation is accomplished.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Revegetate disturbed areas as outlined in the vegetation section of this document.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: At the present time, soils in the vicinity of the proposed actions exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, landform, climate, and geologic processes. Following proper mitigation soil health will not be changed from current conditions.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project site is along the Yellow Creek jeep trail. Vegetation in the project area is dominated by Pinyon-juniper woodlands interspersed with Wyoming big sagebrush parks. The understory of the woodlands varies from very sparse decadent Utah serviceberry and mountain mahogany in the older woodlands to one with a moderately dense cover of native grasses and forbs. The predominant ecological site associated with the Wyoming big sagebrush parks is Rolling Loam.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The principal impact to vegetation will be complete removal of vegetation at the project site and the earthen disturbance associated with it. In terms of plant community composition, structure and function, the principal negative impact over the long term would occur if invasive species or noxious weeds are allowed to establish and proliferate on the disturbed area resulting from repeater construction.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed mix # 3.

3	Western wheatgrass (Rosanna) Bluebunch wheatgrass (Whitmar) Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana) Indian ricegrass (Rimrock) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana) Utah sweetvetch	2 2 2 1 1 1	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Plant communities in the project area currently meet the Standard and are expected to continue to meet the Standard following implementation of the proposed action.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The aquatic habitats nearest the proposed project, Piceance and Yellow Creeks, are separated by several miles of ephemeral channel.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed project involves virtually no surface disturbance and is situated on a level upland site well removed from the nearest aquatic system, and as such would have no reasonable potential to influence aquatic habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on distant aquatic habitat and would have no potential to affect the status of applicable Public Land Health standards as applied to these systems.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area is encompassed by deer severe winter range that is used primarily from September through May. Transient bands of elk make extensive use of this chaining-woodland interface during the winter, but the site's proximity to a major county road corridor limits consistent use of the project locale. The woodlands associated with the project site, because they are open-canopied and bisected by existing roads, do not offer suitable habitat for woodland raptor nest activity. Non-game wildlife using this area are typical and widely distributed in extensive like habitats across the Resource Area and northwest Colorado; there are no narrowly endemic or highly specialized species known to inhabit those lands potentially influenced by this action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Installation of the repeater tower would involve brief and extremely localized activity during a period of heavy recreational use attributable to the big game hunting seasons. The additional activity necessary to install this tower, as well as its potential to disrupt big game use, would be inconsequential with respect to prevailing levels of public use. Site preparation and longer term occupation of these lands and the reduction in the herbaceous and woody forage base for big game (about 100 square feet) would be discountable, and once installed, the presence of this passive repeater would have no further influence on big game winter habitat utility. Similarly, the loss of forage and cover for non-game animals would be negligible at the smallest scale. There would be no potential to disrupt raptor nesting activity. Tower installation within the confines of an open-canopied and fragmented woodland parcel would not adversely influence the long-term integrity or available extent of raptor nest habitat.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to influence terrestrial wildlife habitats or populations.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project area is presently meeting the land health standards for terrestrial wildlife communities. Since the proposed action would have no influence on the utility or suitability of wildlife habitats and would not disrupt any facet of animal use, the project would not interfere with continued meeting of the standard.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise	X		
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed relay tower is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation, which the BLM has classified as a Condition I fossil bearing formation, which means it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Since it will be necessary to dig up to five feet into the underling bedrock formation to construct the tower footer there is a potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. A construction monitor for paleontological resources shall be required. The monitor shall be present prior to the initiation of any construction for the relay tower footer.

2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project

operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: The proposed action is an ancillary facility to the Northwest's right-of way grant COC 0 11409 and was issued in 1955.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will require a right-of way grant and has been serialized as COC69041.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: none

Mitigation: none

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The project area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM physical and social recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If construction coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists. The increase of traffic for monitoring could increase the likelihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action would be located in an area with a VRM III classification. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would be located on the crest of a hill with surrounding vegetation comprised primarily of pinyon/juniper trees. Several similar hills with like vegetation are in the immediate area. A casual observer traveling along the existing dirt road (RBC 83) would be able to view the proposed action for a brief period of time, but the proposed action would not dominate the view. By painting the above ground facility Juniper Green to blend with and mimic the surrounding vegetation, the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be less than moderate, and the VRM III classification objectives would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: All above ground facilities shall be painted non-reflective Juniper Green.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts as addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of oil and gas activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Mike Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species
Vern Rholl	Supervisory NRS	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Specialist	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Specialist	Rangeland Management
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to authorize the construction, operation, maintenance and termination of a passive repeater tower, with access from Rio Blanco County Road 83, as described in the proposed action and incorporating the following mitigation measures:

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. A construction monitor for paleontological resources is required. The monitor shall be present prior to the initiation of any construction for the relay tower footer.

2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing **paleontological** sites, or for collecting **fossils**. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

3. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing **historic** or **archaeological** sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and

immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

5. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

6. The operator shall promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mix # 3. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil. Seed certification tags must be submitted to the Field Manager within 30 days.

Seed MIX #	SPECIES (VARIETY)	LBS.PLS ACRE	RANGE SITES
#3	Western wheatgrass (Rosanna) Bluebunch wheatgrass (Whitmar) Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana) Indian ricegrass (Rimrock) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana) Utah sweetvetch	2 2 2 1 1 1	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)

7. The operator will monitor the right of way for a minimum of five years post construction to detect the presence of noxious and invasive species. The operator will be responsible for eradication of noxious weeds and cheatgrass on the right of way using materials and methods authorized in advance by the Field Manager.

8. Paint all above ground facilities Juniper Green.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance inspections will be performed by the White River Field Office staff every five years.

NAME OF PREPARER: Linda L Jones 9/23/2005

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Robert C. Walker
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 09-26-05

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Map
Location map of the Proposed Action

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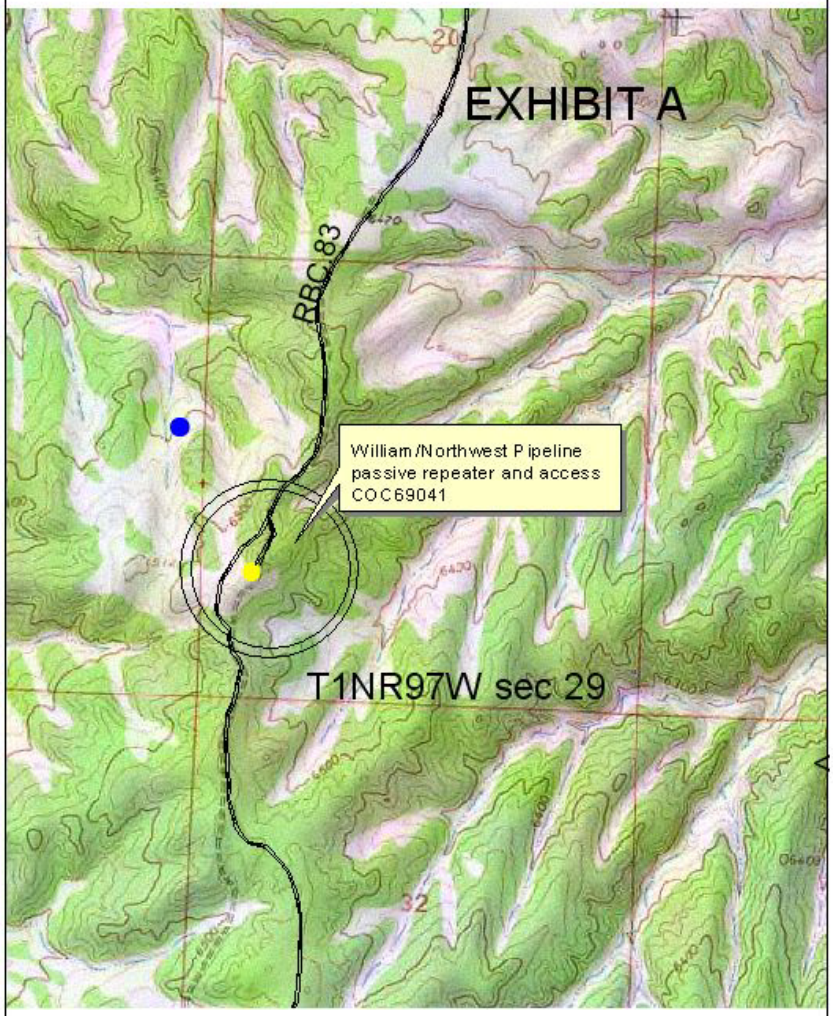
Location of CO-110-05-076-EA

Repeater site for pipeline



Townships
Major roads
Highways
County Roads
Park Service
Forest Service
BLM
Application: point
Field Office Area

Bureau of Land Management

<Empty Text>

Map compiled on September 23, 2005

Disclaimer:

The BLM does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information shown and shall not be liable for any loss or injury resulting from reliance upon the information shown.

0.125 0 0.125 Miles

1:21702

Location of Proposed Action
CO-110-2005-076-EA